



# UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**MAILED**

Baker Botts, L.L.P.  
2001 Ross Avenue, Suite 600  
Dallas, TX 75201-2980

MAY 09 2002

Office of the Director  
Group 3600  
Paper No. 7

In re application of  
Joseph A. Zupanick, et al.  
Application No. 10/003,917  
Filed: November 1, 2001  
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR SURFACE  
PRODUCTION OF GAS FROM A  
SUBTERRANEAN ZONE

: DECISION ON PETITION  
: TO MAKE SPECIAL  
: (ACCELERATED EXAMINATION)

This is in response to the petition filed on December 19, 2001 to make the above-identified application special on the basis of special examining procedure for certain new applications - accelerated examination as set forth in MPEP § 708.02 VIII.

The requirements for granting special status under this section are: (A) a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i); (B) all claims being directed to a single invention, or an election without traverse if the Office determines that all the claims are not directed to a single invention; (C) a statement that a pre-examination search was made listing the field of search; (D) one copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record; and (E) a detailed discussion of how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references.

Since all of the requirements for special status under MPEP § 708.02 VIII have been met, the petition is **GRANTED**.

The examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if petitioner makes a prompt ***bona fide*** effort, in response to each Office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.

**SUMMARY:** Petition to Make Special **GRANTED**.



Randolph A. Reese  
Special Programs Examiner  
Technology Center 3600  
(703) 308-2121